

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Shores et al.	§	Docket No. P11712.00 / 31849.35
Serial No.: 10/698,638	§	Customer No. 27683
Filed: October 31, 2003	§	Group Art Unit: 3733
For: COUPLING SYSTEM FOR SURGICAL INSTRUMENT	§	Examiner: Cumberledge, Jerry L.
	§	Confirmation No.: 3375

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING RCE

I. Introductory Remarks

The present paper is submitted in response to the Advisory Action mailed May 22, 2008 and accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

A 2-month extension of time is believed necessary for consideration of the present paper. Accordingly, the \$460 fee for the 2-month extension of time is included along with the \$810 fee for the RCE. No other fees are believed necessary at this time. However, if any additional fees are necessary, including any additional extension of time fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including those for the additional extension of time, to Haynes and Boone, LLP's Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

The **Listing of Claims** begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 9.